

## **Congressman Jim Gerlach, PA-6<sup>th</sup> District**

A lifelong Pennsylvania resident, Jim Gerlach grew up in Ellwood City – a small town in western Pennsylvania about an hour north of Pittsburgh. He currently lives in Chester Springs with his wife Karen. They have six children.

Jim has spent nearly 20 years in public service representing the citizens of Southeastern Pennsylvania. His distinguished career began in 1990 with the first of two terms in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, which was followed by two terms in the state Senate. During his 12 years in the state legislature, Jim established himself as an effective advocate for Pennsylvania taxpayers. His efforts helped promote efficiency and streamline government, which saved taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

Jim was the prime sponsor of landmark welfare reform legislation that reduced the state's welfare rolls by over 150,000 cases.

Jim was elected to Congress in 2002 and is serving his fourth term in the U.S. House of Representatives. He serves on the House Financial Services and Transportation and Infrastructure committees.

One of his biggest legislative accomplishments was creating a much-needed veterans cemetery here in Southeastern Pennsylvania. The bill Jim authored was signed into law by the President on Veterans Day in 2003, and the cemetery opened in Bucks County in 2009.

Jim has been a tireless advocate for allowing entrepreneurs, small business owners and other job creators to keep more of their hard-earned pay to purchase new equipment and put people to work rather than sending more tax dollars to Washington.

He stood with Pennsylvania businesses and voted last June against a cap and trade bill, which would result in the loss of approximately 1,600 construction jobs and another 4,000 manufacturing here in the 6<sup>th</sup> District and crippling increases in utility bills.

Jim also opposes the "Card Check" legislation, which would take away an individuals' right to vote on forming union in private -- free from possible coercion and other improper pressure.

While working to keep taxes low, Jim also believes it is important to make sure taxpayers see a positive return on the dollars they do send to Washington.

That's why he continues working hard to re-establish commuter rail service between Wyomissing and Philadelphia through the R-6 Extension passenger rail project and has been successful in securing funding for police departments, colleges, universities, hospitals, nonprofit groups and others in Chester County and throughout the 6<sup>th</sup> District.